

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the above-captioned patent application following this amendment. Claims 1-48 are subject to a restriction requirement. The Species I claims, comprising claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-35 and 37-48, were elected with traverse. The Applicants further respectfully submit that at least claims 1-7, 12-14, 16-21, 26-30, 32-35 and 41-48 are generic to Species I, II and III as defined by the Patent Office. Further, claims 9-11, 15, 23-25, 31 and 37-40 are subgeneric, as these claims are believed to read on both Species I and II.

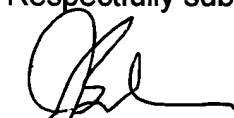
Consideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully assert that all of the pending claims, including claims 1-48, should be examined together, and that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn. Alternatively, the Applicants submit that the Species I claims, comprising claims 1-7, 9-21, 23-35 and 37-48 should be examined together and that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-487-4077 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this the 14th day of June, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



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